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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,838	01/09/2006	Fumika Yasunaga	0697-7001	3475

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Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
3975 Fair Ridge Drive
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Fairfax, VA 22033

EXAMINER

CALDERON, CYNTHIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/563,838

Applicant(s)

YASUNAGA ET AL.

Examiner

Cynthia Calderon

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner acknowledges the amended claims filed on 01/09/2006. Claims 6-10 have been amended.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/09/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and was considered by the examiner.

Specification

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtney (EP Patent Pub 967 584) in view of Horikiri et al. (US Patent 7,186,271) and further in view of Arai et al. (US-PGPUB 2002/0104092).

Regarding **claim 1**, Courtney discloses in a remote monitoring system (monitoring apparatus, see fig. 14 and ¶0095) which a plurality of imaging devices for imaging objects (image detectors 312 and 313, see fig. 14 and ¶0096) , a terminal device (portable communication unit 346, see fig. 14 and ¶0103) provided with display part (LCD display 351, see fig. 14 and ¶0104) for displaying as image data that the objects imaged by said imaging devices (see ¶0105) , and center device (computer 324, see fig. 14) for controlling said imaging devices (Control lines 317 are provided from the computer 324 to the control section 316 of the camera 312, in order to provide the control section 316 with information that determines how the control section 316 will position the camera 312, and how the control section 316 will set the zoom factor of the zoom lens assembly in the camera 312. A similar set of control lines 329 is provided from the computer 324 to the control section 317 of the camera 313; see ¶0100) are connected through electronic communications circuits (elements 326-329, 338, 341 349, see fig. 14) that support two-way communications (see ¶0100-0103); the improvement comprising: said imaging device having first image data outputting means (elements 326 and 328, see fig. 14) for outputting first image data obtained by imaging said object to said center device (see ¶0100), and image data converting means (see fig. 15) for converting the data size of said first image data into second data image compatible with the display size (the images from the video cameras 312 and 313 in

figure 14 are subjected by the computer 324 to image processing in order to make the images compatible with the low resolution of the portable unit 346; see ¶0107-0110), and second image data output means (338 and 349, see fig. 14) for outputting said second image data to a specific terminal device (see ¶0111, 0106).

However, Courtney fails to explicitly disclose a plurality of terminal devices and said center device having first registration means, storage means for storing the display size of said display part for each model of said terminal device and discriminating means.

On the other hand, Horikiri discloses a remote monitoring system (see fig. 1) comprising a plurality of imaging devices (supervision cameras 22-1 through 22-n, see fig. 1) for imaging objects (see col. 6, lines 55-67 and col. 7, lines 11-16), a plurality of terminal devices (portable telephone terminals 3-1 through 3-n, see fig. 1) provided with display parts for displaying as image data the objects imaged by said imaging devices (Once an event has been detected an e-mail is sent to the portable terminal 3 as shown in fig. 6. Then the owner of the portable terminal 3 can click on the URL link provided in the e-mail to access the images captured by the imaging devices 22; see col. 6, lines 49-58; col. 8, lines 59-67; col. 9, lines 1-4; col. 10, lines 55-61), and center device (security server 1, see figs. 1-2) for controlling said imaging devices (the security server 1 comprises a camera control section 13 which performs control of the supervision cameras 22, see fig. 2 and col. 7, lines 43-56) are connected through electronic communications circuits that support two-way communications (network 6, see fig. 1 & col. 6, lines 53-58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Courtney by specifically providing a plurality of terminal devices, as taught by Horikiri in order to provide a terminal device for each family member of a household so that they can be quickly notify of any abnormality that may represent a risk for them (see col. 8, lines 44-58).

It is noted that the combination of Courtney and Horikiri still fails to disclose said center device having first registration means, storage means for storing the display size of said display part for each model of said terminal device and discriminating means.

Nevertheless, Arai discloses a center device (item 201, see fig. 1) having first registration means for registering user identification information (storage 301 contains a file having multiples user IDs that have been registered, see fig. 8B, item 3201 and ¶0099-0100, 0034), storage means for storing the display size of said display part for each model of said terminal device (storage 301 stores a size 3207 of the display, a width 3203 of the display and a height 3204 of the display according to different terminal types indicated by 3202, see fig. 8B and ¶0099-0100), discriminating means (controller 231, see fig. 1) for discriminating the model based on information transmitted from said terminal device (The user operates the operating device 801 to instruct the apparatus 201 to distribute a desired image. The operating device 801 can be incorporated in the portable terminal 701. The operating information includes receiver terminal information. The receiver terminal information is information about portable type, resolution and physical size of the display screen. The controller 231, when receiving the operating

information, refers to a file previously stored in storage 301 and identifies the user on the basis of the user ID. Circuit 24, on the basis of the receiver terminal information, selects and/or processes suitable one of the received image information and outputs it to circuit 291. Once the user ID is identified, the type of terminal is also identified according to the user ID; see ¶¶0033, 0034, 0030), image data converting means (circuit 241, see figs. 1-2) for reading out through said storage means the display size compatible with the model information obtained through said model discrimination, and for converting the data size of said first image data into second image data compatible with said display size (under the control of the controller 231 based on the receiver terminal information stored in the storage 301, circuit 241 selects suitable information from the input image information and processes it into suitable image information and transmits it to circuit 291 and then to the portable terminal 701; see ¶¶0034-0043, 0096) and second image data output means (item 291, see fig. 1) for outputting said second image data to a specific terminal device associated with said identification information (see ¶¶0033-0035, 0042-0043 & 0096).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Courtney and Horikiri by specifically providing said center device having first registration means for registering user identification information, storage means for storing the display size of said display part for each model of said terminal device, discriminating means for discriminating the model based on information transmitted from said terminal device, image data converting means for reading out through said storage means the display size

compatible with the model information obtained through said model discrimination, and for converting the data size of said first image data into second image data compatible with said display size, and second image data output means for outputting said second image data to a specific terminal device associated with said identification information, as taught by Arai in order to have a center device that can easily manage and distribute images that are suitable for different terminal devices.

Regarding **claim 2**, Courtney discloses at least one sensor (IR sensor 319, see fig. 14) for sensing a specific object is provided corresponding to said imaging devices (see ¶¶0098, 0117); and a user associated with the imaging device that has performed said imaging process (the user of the portable unit 346 presses keys F1-F4 to tilt the orientation of the selected camera and presses key F5 to change the zoom factor of the selected camera so as to control the imaging process, see ¶¶0112-0115); and first transmission means (338 and 349, see fig. 14) for transmitting e-mail to an associated user of the monitoring system (Sensor 319 can detect an event of interest in an area monitored by at least one of the cameras 312 and 313. Courtney further discloses that an imaging process can be programmed to check for a specified event and to specify an action to be taken if the specified event occurs. One of the actions to be taken can be sending an electronic mail message to a specified electronic mail address or making a phone to specified number; see ¶¶0098, 0070-0071, 0117).

Although Courtney discloses that an e-mail can be sent when a specified event is detected and that an event can be detected by the sensor 319, he fails to explicitly disclose a sensor is provided to each of said imaging devices, said imaging device

having first imaging means for performing an imaging process based on an directive from said sensor, and identification information transmission means for transmitting, to said center device, identification information for a user associated with the imaging device and said center device having second registration means for registering an e-mail address for said terminal device, associated with said identification information, and first transmission means for transmitting e-mail to an associated specific terminal device depending on said e-mail address.

On the other hand, Horikiri discloses at least one sensor for sensing a specific object is provided corresponding to each of said imaging devices (the sensors 21 and cameras 22 are installed at least by one-to-one correspondence, see col. 7, lines 5-25 and fig. 1); and said imaging device having first imaging means for performing an imaging process based on a directive from said sensor (an abnormality detected by the sensors 21 is shot by the supervision cameras 22, which means that the imaging is trigger by the detection; see col. 7, lines 18-21), and identification information transmission means for transmitting, to said center device, identification information for a user associated with the imaging device that has performed said imaging process (the owner of a residence or the caretaker of a building who wishes to receive notifications from the monitoring system (fig. 1) when an abnormality occurs, transmits its telephone number as identification information to the security server 1 through the network 6, see col. 7, lines 26-34); and said center device (security server 1, see fig. 1) having second registration means for registering an e-mail address for said terminal device, associated with said identification information, and first transmission means for transmitting e-mail

to an associated specific terminal device depending on said e-mail address (see col. 7, lines 26-34; col. 8, lines 44-58 ; where the public network is used to send the e-mail to the terminal devices, see figs. 1 and 6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Courtney by specifically providing at least one sensor for sensing a specific object is provided corresponding to each of said imaging devices; and said imaging device having first imaging means for performing an imaging process based on an directive from said sensor, and identification information transmission means for transmitting, to said center device, identification information for a user associated with the imaging device that has performed said imaging process; and said center device having second registration means for registering an e-mail address for said terminal device, associated with said identification information, and first transmission means for transmitting e-mail to an associated specific terminal device depending on said e-mail address, as taught by Horikiri in order to not only receive a voice notification that an event (abnormality) has occurred but to also have a quick visual access to what has occurred and quickly decide if it requires proper attention.

Regarding **claim 3**, Courtney discloses at least one sensor (IR sensor 319, see fig. 14) for sensing a specific object is provided corresponding to said imaging devices (see ¶0098, 0117).

However, Courtney fails to disclose a sensor is provided to each of said imaging devices and said first registration means registers active members and passive members.

Nevertheless, Horikiri discloses at least one sensor for sensing a specific object is provided corresponding to each of said imaging devices (the sensors 21 and cameras 22 are installed at least by one-to-one correspondence, see col. 7, lines 5-25 and fig. 1); and said first registration means (retaining section 18, see fig. 2) registers active members (resident or caretaker of a building and security server 1, see col. 7, lines 26-34) who can issue imaging commands from said terminal device (section 14 stores and retains image information sent from the cameras 22 as well as converts the image information to a specific format in response to a request from the portable terminal 3, see col. 8, lines 59-67; col. 9, lines 1-4 and col. 7, 26-34) and passive members (security center 4, see fig. 1) who can receive image data obtained through imaging commands from said sensor separately (the personnel of the security center 4 can only access image data that the user does not wishes to hide, see col. 10, lines 28-36, 55-61).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Courtney by specifically providing at least one sensor for sensing a specific object is provided corresponding to each of said imaging devices; and said first registration means registers active members who can issue imaging commands from said terminal device and passive members who can receive image data obtained through imaging commands from said sensor separately, as taught by Horikiri in order to easily distribute images to multiple sources so as to quickly receive help when the event or abnormality represents a risk, but to restrict the imaging

process to a closed loop that have a better understanding of the area that is being monitored.

Regarding **claim 4**, Courtney discloses said imaging device comprises second imaging means for imaging said object pseudo- continuously at a predetermined interval (cameras 312 and 313 are capable of producing successive images at a speed and resolution, for example 30 frames per second; see ¶0106), and second transmission means for transmitting continually the first image data that imaged by said second imaging means to said center device (A video connection 326 is provided between the video camera 312 and the computer 324, in order to supply video images from the video camera 312 to the computer 324. Computer 324 takes the images that are processed according to the techniques discussed in fig. 15 and successively insert these processed images into a document or web page which is in HTML format, and which can thus be accessed through the Internet. In the event that video compression was provided in MPEG-4, it would increase the amount of video information which could be transmitted in real-time from the computer 324 to the portable unit 346. Consequently, the image processing described in association with FIGURE 15 could be adjusted to increase the number of images processed and transmitted per second, where this increment provides a continuous transmission from the camera to the computer; see ¶0100, 0111, 0121); and said center device comprises receiving means for receiving first image data that is transmitted by said second transmission means (326 and 328, see fig. 1 and ¶0100), and third transmission means (338 and 349, see fig. 1) for transmitting said second image data to the concerned terminal device when an image

transmit command has been received from a specific terminal device (if the operator pressed the function key F8, the second camera 313 will be designated as the selected camera, the video images from the camera 313 will be subjected to image processing and only the processed images from the camera 313 will be forwarded to the portable unit 346, see ¶0113, 0101-0103).

Regarding **claim 5**, Courtney discloses first image data from before (sensor 319 can detect an event of interest in an area monitored by cameras 312 and 313, which means that images from the area are being captured before the event, see ¶0098) and after detection thereof is converted into said second image data and transmitted to said specific terminal device by said third transmission means when a sensor connected to said imaging device has sensed said object (Once the event is detected by the sensor 319, the computer places a call to the portable unit 346 so that the operator of the portable unit 346 can access a HTML page generated by the computer 324 and view an image 371 to determined what is happening in the monitored area. The image data from the cameras is converted by the computer 324 into image data suitable for the display of the portable unit 346 by using the process shown in figure 15. The converted image data is then transmitted to the portable terminal 346 through the network 338 and the RF link 349; see ¶0117, 0107-0111, 0101-0103).

Regarding **claim 7**, Courtney discloses designation means for designating a specific imaging device from at least one imaging device possessed by said user on a display screen (the user presses the function key F7 associated with icon 387, as shown in the display screen shown in figure 16, to designate the camera 312 as the

selected camera or presses the function key F8 to designate the camera 313 as the selected camera, see ¶(0113).

However, Courtney fails to disclose said terminal device comprises identification information input means for inputting user identification information and said center device comprises provision means for providing said display screen to said terminal device based on said identification information.

On the other hand, Arai discloses said terminal device comprises identification information input means for inputting user identification information (The user operates the operating device 801 to instruct the apparatus 201 to distribute a desired image. The operating apparatus includes user ID and receiver terminal information. The controller 231, when receiving the operating information, refers to a file previously stored and identifies the user on the bases of the user ID. Device 801 can be incorporated in the portable terminal 701; see ¶(0030, 0033-0034) and said center device comprises provision means for providing said display screen to said terminal device based on said identification information (circuit 241 processes the image data on the basis of the identified user and receiver terminal information to convert the image data so as to be suitable for the display of the portable unit 701, see figs. 1, 2 and 8B and ¶(0034, 0038-0043, 0096 & 0100).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Courtney and Horikiri by specifically providing a terminal device comprising identification information input means for inputting user identification information and a center device comprising provision

means for providing said display screen to said terminal device based on said identification information, as taught by Arai in order to have a center device that can easily manage and distribute images that are suitable for different terminal devices based on the subscribed users.

Regarding **claim 8**, Courtney discloses said terminal device is a mobile communications device (see ¶0103).

Regarding **claim 9**, Courtney discloses the objects to be imaged by said imaging device include animals and plants for enjoyment (Courtney discloses that the sensor 319 can detect an event to be captured by the cameras 312 and 313, where the event can be detecting the presence of a human or an animal).

However, Courtney fails to disclose imaging plants. Nevertheless, the examiner takes official notice of the fact that it was well known to capture images of plants.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to capture images of plants for the purpose of watching them grow or bloom from a remote location.

Regarding **claim 10**, Courtney discloses said imaging device is installed in a predetermined location inside or outside of a building (see ¶0095).

6. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtney in view of Horikiri and Arai and further in view of Smith (US Patent 6,931,661).

Regarding **claim 6**, Courtney discloses said center device comprises enlarged display means for selecting a part of said second image data (Courtney discloses that

the center device is a personal computer 324 and it has been well know in the art that a personal computer has a larger display than the display of a cellular wireless telephone; see ¶0099, 0103. Courtney further discloses that the computer 324 selects a part of the image data because Courtney discloses that the computer 324 reduces the resolution of the image data; see 0107-0109).

However, Courtney fails to disclose enlarging and displaying the selected part on said display part.

On the other hand, Smith selecting a part of an image data and enlarging and displaying the selected part on a display of a portable terminal (see fig. 3 and col. 2, lines 59-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Courtney, Horikiri and Arai by specifically selecting a part of an image data and enlarging and displaying the selected part on a display of a portable terminal, as taught by Smith in order to observe parts of an image in a greater detail.

Citation of Pertinent Art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sunata (US Patent 7,286,145) discloses enlarging parts of an image in a portable terminal device.

Fredlund (US-PGPUB 2006/0028555) discloses using a portable terminal device to the capturing process of an imaging device.

Courtney (US Patent 6,385,772) discloses sending images to a portable terminal device from a camera by using a server and a network.

Park (US-PGPUB 2001-0008415) discloses a wireless telephone receives the RF signal from a wireless camera via a base station.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia Calderon whose telephone number is (571) 270-3580. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00am-5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 2622
05/06/2010

/Jason Chan/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622